

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 72

the state. So thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor (sic), members of the body. I was one of the members of the Revenue Committee who voted against this bill. And the committee amendment that's before you is limiting the checkoff to three years. Now, that was because they felt that we should limit this bill to see if actually it works and turns around the fair and their income level. But I will bring to your attention the fiscal note to this. It says in the second paragraph, it is estimated that the Department of Revenue expenses will be offset by first-year revenue from the checkoff, provided that revenue from donations was in the 75,000 to 100,000 dollar range. If the revenue was not sufficient, additional General Funds may be necessary to offset expenses. Now, bear in mind that the endangered species checkoff results in approximately \$75,000 per year. So in fact, the first year's income from this checkoff might cover the cost if, in fact, it raised that much. But the campaign finance checkoff results in only \$9,000 of revenue per year. So, in fact, we may end up having to subsidize this with General Fund dollars. I will tell you, though, that I have a concern which is more philosophical, and that is, at what point do we say that something is of such worth and value that we should put a voluntary checkoff on our income tax form? Should we have a checkoff for K through 12 education? Should we have a checkoff for the university? Should we have a checkoff for water purity throughout the state? Should we have a checkoff for rural economic development? The list is endless. And so I have to say, philosophically, we should ask ourselves the question whether, in fact, we want to go down this road, because we could have about a ten-page form that send out to people every April 15 and ask them to fill out, because there are a lot of worthy causes that are funded by our state government, by our local governments, that are certainly supported by the people of Nebraska. So philosophically, I don't think that that's a good way for us to go. I think it could be very complicated to decide who is worthy and who is not. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Wehrbein.